

He was elected a member in May, 1874. He served as Treasurer during the years 1893 and 1894 and was a member of the Finance Committee from 1890 to 1893 and again from 1895 until his death. He was Chairman of the Library Committee, and was continuously a member of the Council from his first election thereto in 1881 until his decease.

In all these positions Mr. Perot was a wise, liberal and devoted friend and supporter of the Academy. His services were given with fidelity and with high efficiency. In all these various relations Mr. Perot not only won the confidence of his associates but by his urbane manner and equable temperament he secured their personal friendship as well. He was a good type of those broad minded and sympathetic business men in Philadelphia and vicinity who have freely given their valuable aid to this institution and have contributed so largely to its usefulness and high standing.

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia hereby expresses and places on record its appreciation of the value of Mr. Perot's efficient services to the institution and of the great loss which has been sustained by his death.

NOVEMBER 29.

The President, SAMUEL G. DIXON, M. D., in the Chair.

Twenty-seven persons present.

Papers under the following titles were presented for publication :

"Some Observations on the Classification of Birds." By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt.

"A Study of the type Specimens of Birds in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, with a brief history of the Collection." By Witmer Stone.

Occurrence of Oryzomys palustris in Southern New Jersey.—MR. WITMER STONE placed on record the capture of two specimens of the Rice-field Mouse, *Oryzomys palustris*, in southern New Jersey, on Nov. 21, 1898, by Mr. Henry W. Warrington.

The history of the species is of peculiar interest. It was originally discovered in 1816 by Dr. John Bachman at Charleston, S. C. but was not described until 1836 when a specimen and description were sent to Drs. Pickering and Harlan of Philadelphia for comparison with Ord's *Arvicola riparia* and for publication if the southern animal proved distinct.

Dr. Bachman named the mouse *Arvicola oryzivora*. Upon comparison with specimens in the Academy collection Dr. Harlan not only found that Bachman's mouse was quite distinct from *Arvicola riparia* but also discovered that a mounted specimen identical with it was already in the collection labelled from "Fastland" near Salem, N. J.

He thereupon ignored Bachman's manuscript and described the New Jersey specimen under the name of *Mus palustris*.¹ Baird subsequently established the genus *Oryzomys* for it, and it has since been known as *Oryzomys palustris* (Harlan).

Further explorations have shown that the Rice-field Mouse is distributed from North Carolina to Texas but until the present time no other specimens have been obtained from New Jersey. For some time past Mr. S. N. Rhoads has made persistent efforts to discover this animal and has trapped without avail in Cape May Co., Port Norris, and Salem.

As a result of the failures it seemed most probable that the original Harlan specimen had been wrongly labelled and that the Rice-field Mouse was not a member of the New Jersey fauna. This view had in fact been generally adopted.

Mr. Warrington's rediscovery of the animal in this State after a lapse of at least sixty-two years is therefore of great interest.

He states that the specimens were secured on the marshes bordering Delaware Bay about midway between Port Norris and Salem, and that they were inhabiting old Muskrat houses in which they had made their nests.

Mr. Stone stated further that steps would be at once taken to secure a satisfactory series of these mice for comparison with those of the Carolinas as there is a possibility of the latter proving a distinct subspecies.

The form inhabiting Florida has been already separated by Chapman as *Oryzomys palustris natator*.

The following were elected members:—

Charles Mohr, M. D., Henry L. Broomal, H. B. Gross, Miss Emily Lowber, Miss Ethel Smith, Mrs. Julia Stockton Robins, Miss Emily Williams Biddle and Mrs. J. Edgar Thomson.

The following were ordered to be printed:—

¹ Am. Jour. Sci. and Arts, XXXI, 385.